



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on International Trade

2014/2816(INI)

7.11.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part
(2014/2816(INI))

Rapporteur: Olli Rehn

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the EU-Georgia Association Agreement – especially its trade part negotiated within the framework of the Eastern Partnership from 2012 to 2013 – is among other things one of the most ambitious free trade agreements that the EU has ever negotiated with a third country;
 - B. whereas the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the EU and Georgia represents one of the most significant mutual benefits of the agreement; whereas the importance of trade for growth, job creation, prosperity and stability is indisputable;
 - C. whereas by establishing a DCFTA with the EU Georgia will, in order to enhance its access to the EU market, have to make binding commitments on adapting its laws and standards so as to respect the common norms and values;
 - D. whereas the EU will benefit from smoother commercial flows and better investment conditions in Georgia;
 - E. whereas the DCFTA includes several provisions aimed at reforming Georgia's trade legislation and trade-related policies in line with, and on the basis of, the EU acquis, which will lead to the modernisation of the country's economy and an improved and more predictable business environment, including for SMEs;
 - F. whereas by granting GSP+ preferences, the EU has afforded substantial benefits to the Georgian economy;
- 1. Commends Georgia's determination to pursue closer economic ties with the EU by undertaking deep and difficult economic reforms;
 - 2. Congratulates Georgia on having been able to sustain external pressure, inter alia from Russia, and redirect its exports towards new markets, and encourages Georgia to continue on this path also in the future; condemns the policy of economic pressure employed by Russia against Georgia prior to and after the signature of the DCFTA in June 2014;
 - 3. Believes strongly that the DCFTA will have a long-term beneficial effect on Georgia's economy and will thus contribute to raising the quality of life of its citizens;
 - 4. Notes with satisfaction the ratification of the agreement by the Georgian parliament on 18 July 2014, which triggered the provisional application of the DCFTA as from 1 September 2014;
 - 5. Calls on the Parliaments of the Member States to ratify the Association Agreement, including the DCFTA, as soon as possible, so that all economic and trade provisions of the Agreement can enter into force in full without delay;

6. Underlines the fact that the success of the DCFTA will be dependent on the thorough implementation by both parties of the commitments set out in the agreement; calls, in this respect, for the EU to provide Georgia with all necessary assistance, also with a view to alleviating the short-term costs for Georgia; invites the Member States to share with Georgia their know-how in the field of economic reforms and approximation;
7. Believes that parliamentary scrutiny is a fundamental condition for democratic support for EU policies; calls on the Commission, therefore, to facilitate the regular and detailed monitoring of the implementation of the DCFTA by the European Parliament in a timely manner.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	6.11.2014
Result of final vote	+: 29 -: 8 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Tiziana Beghin, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Santiago Fisas Ayxelà, Ska Keller, Jude Kirton-Darling, Gabrielius Landsbergis, Bernd Lange, Jörg Leichtfried, Marine Le Pen, David Martin, Anne-Marie Mineur, Alessia Maria Mosca, Franz Obermayr, Franck Proust, Viviane Reding, Olli Rehn, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Matteo Salvini, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Adam Szejnfeld, Iuliu Winkler
Substitutes present for the final vote	Bendt Bendtsen, Klaus Buchner, Nicola Danti, Agnes Jongerius, Sajjad Karim, Seán Kelly, Sander Loones, Fernando Ruas, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Jarosław Wałęsa
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Laura Agea, Andi Cristea, Helga Stevens